

July/August 2001

Longmont City Council Members
350 Kimbark St.
Longmont, CO 80501

Dear Council Members McCoy, Carlson, Lange, Brown, Winger, Block, and Mayor Stoecker:

I am deeply concerned that Wal-Mart wants to abandon its present site and annex land to build an enormous Super Center on Hover Street. I feel that this project would negatively impact the quality of life in Longmont, and compromise our community in many ways. Indeed, I feel that the whole project contradicts the spirit and specifics of Longmont's vision for its future as designated in the City's Comprehensive Plan.

Specifically I am concerned about:

- **Traffic** (volume, safety, pollution, neighborhood impact): These stores typically bring out 10,000+ cars per day. Proposed location is not near the 119-Hover intersection, but near neighborhoods (including the historic Old Town), Rogers Grove and the St. Vrain Greenway. I do not want more congestion on my streets.
- **Commercial Impact:** Decaying malls and vacant stores follow the wake of the multinational chains as they "remake" themselves into Super Centers. Aurora has two abandoned Wal-Marts, each 100,000 sq. ft. Nationwide there are nearly 400 empty Wal-Marts surrounded by acres of asphalt. Longmont already has a glut of vacant office and industrial space.
- **Environmental Impact and Crime: Appearance:** 20 acres including parking, **runoff:** it's near the St. Vrain Greenway, **noise and light pollution:** open 24/7; **Crime:** according to the Colorado Springs Gazette, police were called 86 times between November 28, 1999 and December 29, 1999 to a Wal-Mart at Platte Avenue.
- **Loss of Local Businesses and Small Town Atmosphere:** Wal-Marts underprice and cause the loss of local, home-grown businesses. Towns are most vibrant when they have a core of decision-making business people who have a sense of place. Driving them out homogenizes the town and takes away local control. Even Longmont's Economic Council touts the importance of a diverse business base. The store contradicts our efforts to revitalize Main Street.
- **Erosion of Well-Paid Workforce:** Grocery store employees tend to have good salaries, benefits and job security. Their counterparts at Wal-Mart will not. The cost to our community of job displacement and a "ripple effect" of lower wage workers on the economy is not tolerable.

This proposed monolith (220,000 sq. ft.) will dwarf any other store along the south Hover corridor (Home Depot is 130,000 sq. ft. and Wal-Mart's present site is 120,400 sq. ft.). While Home Depot occasions around 4,000 car trips per day, Wal-Marts this size typically cause over 10,000 trips per day. Wal-Mart insists that Longmont needs this store so customers can have "much wider aisles," and a grocery store. It is my opinion that this petty convenience is far overshadowed by the negative impact this store will have on our community. Please do not allow this project to go forward.

Sincerely

printed name

signature

(Longmont address with zip)

phone number